

Draft Talking Points on the Columbia/Snake Mainstem Temperature TMDL

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Talking points prepared by EPA and WSDEcology - September 6, 2002

- The Columbia/Snake Rivers Mainstem Temperature TMDL that is being released on September 13, 2002, is a preliminary draft. This preliminary draft was developed by EPA with technical review, assistance and support by staff from the Oregon DEQ, Idaho DEQ and Washington Ecology. Input was received as well from some of the Columbia River tribes. Input was also received in the six public meetings held in 2001 and 2002 on this TMDL effort. The draft for formal public review will be issued in late October, 2002 after considering the comments and suggestions received on this preliminary draft.
- The purpose of releasing this preliminary draft to the public and holding public meetings is to receive feedback on the appropriateness of the methodology for the development of the total maximum load allowable and the load allocations. The tribes, states, and EPA want a vigorous discussion of the alternatives for allocations and of potential solutions for restoration of the criteria in the river, especially for the protection of ES. We need to find solutions to make the TMDL work.
- We are open to making appropriate changes before we issue the formal draft. That is the whole purpose of the preliminary draft to make the formal draft a better technical document.
- This preliminary draft TMDL proposes Waste Load Allocations for existing point sources based on their current loads. The states have provided this preliminary analysis which could change when more detailed information is available.
- Point sources will also have to comply with state mixing zone and minimum technology requirements. Those requirements could be more restrictive than the TMDL but that is a state call. We mention it in the TMDL so that there will be no surprises.
- The technical analysis in the preliminary draft TMDL shows that the dams that impound the largest reservoirs bear the major responsibility for improving temperature because they are the biggest causes of the temperature problem. We anticipate that restoration of natural temperature regimes on the Columbia and Snake Rivers will be a long term process. Temperature improvements that assist in restoring healthy populations of ES will be the main focus of initial efforts in the river by those causing the unnatural conditions.
- The Wasteload and load allocations specified in the final TMDL will be considered for achievement through implementation strategies developed by each state. This TMDL, which tentatively identifies the large dams as the primary cause of temperature impairment, will be a challenge to implement. The states

are keenly aware of the equity or fairness issues that are engendered in the TMDL and load allocation process.

**TMDL Public Workshops/Informational Meetings on Preliminary Draft
Temperature TMDL**

September 25 - Lewiston - Red Lion Inn - 9 - 3 pm

September 26 - Kennewick - Washington Department of Ecology Kennewick office, 1315 W 4th Ave., 9 - 3 pm

October 1 - Portland - State Office Building, 12:30 - 5 pm

Website for more information:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbiainstemtmdl.htm>